

THE SITUATION

California Community College (CCC):

- In the last 3 academic years, CCC enrollment decreased by 485,000 students due to severe budget cuts. Classes have been reduced by 24%, and non-credit course sections have been reduced by 38%.
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has given City College of San Francisco (CCSF) a “show cause” order, forcing the college to create a plan outlining why they deserve to retain their accreditation.
- If they lose accreditation, CCSF will lose government funding, the students will lose eligibility for federal loans, and credits earned at CCSF will not be recognized at other schools. This would force CCSF to close its doors to its 90,000 students.
- WASC wants CCSF to hire more administrators, implement more Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and change their mission statement. These changes would make the college easier to control by corporate interests, give the agency (WASC) more control over course content and offerings, and force CCSF to deny access to education for underserved populations who need it most.

California State University (CSU):

- Last year, the California State University Board voted to approve a 9% system-wide tuition hike for all 23 CSU campuses in response to the \$650 million cut in funding from the state.
- A billion dollars in state funding has been lost by the CSU system since 2007-2008. Another potential \$250 million cut will occur this year if Governor Jerry Brown’s tax does not pass.
- Cost savings options on the table are increases in tuition, cuts in teacher salaries, and enrollment reduction. Many departments froze spring graduate admissions for in-state students for the Spring term in 2012.
- Despite the cuts suffered by students and faculty, the CSU Board of Trustees approved pay hikes for three campus presidents in July, 2012.

University of California (UC):

- The cost of attending a UC has doubled in the last 6 years, mostly through increases in educational fees that the UC is free to use without accountability.
- Since 1990, the state’s contribution to educating each UC student has decreased by more than 60%. In 1990, students paid 13% of their educational costs. In 2011, they paid 49%.
- In 2011-12, the state cut an additional \$650 million from the UC budget. In response, UC has decreased enrollment by 2,850 students in the last two years, despite growing demand for UC admission.
- Since 2004, the primary use of student fees has been as collateral for bonds to fund campus construction projects, diverting funds from students to corporate interests.
- The UC regents, who are appointed by the Governor of California, make budgeting decisions, including spending and tuition/fee hikes. They blame the state for cutting the UC budget, yet divert the existing UC funds into their pet projects.
- One of the most notable UC regents is Richard Blum, who is married to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D), and uses his political connections and his position as UC Regent for personal gain by engaging the UC in projects with construction and real estate corporations that he runs. Also, Blum is the dominant shareholder in two of the nation’s largest for-profit universities and has invested \$53 million of public funds from the UC portfolio into these same for-profit universities.



A PRIVATIZATION AGENDA THROUGH AUSTERITY

The budget deficits that induce UC student fee hikes, freezes on spring enrollments for in-state graduate student applicants at CSU, and San Francisco City College’s accreditation problems are all part of a much bigger austerity and privatization agenda.

AUSTERITY

Austerity measures are presented to the public as an economic necessity to reduce government budget deficits by cutting government spending and increasing taxes. In actuality, austerity is a powerful tool used by the economic and political elites to divert wealth from the public into their own pockets. Programs benefitting the public get cut (e.g. public education), while programs benefitting private corporations get funded (e.g. outsourcing education to privately owned or operated schools). Taxes for corporations and the rich are cut, while taxes that are mostly paid by the 99%, such as the sales tax, are increased.

PRIVATIZATION

Austerity is also used to further a more opaque wealth transfer mechanism: privatization. When education budgets are slashed, less people have access to public colleges. Corporate-run for-profit colleges step in providing worse services at a higher cost to the students, funneling public funds in the form of student loans and federal financial aid into private corporate coffers.

FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Soaring tuition and fees at public institutions push students in the trap of increased student debt. Total student loans in the United States have now passed the \$1 trillion mark. These loans generate massive amounts of wealth for financial elites through service charges on a debt that cannot be discharged, even through bankruptcy. Banks have started securitizing student loans into SLABs (student loan asset backed securities), in the same way as they did with mortgages during the bubble that led to the financial crisis.

MONEY IN POLITICS

Because so many powerful interests benefit from cutting education, there is a lot of lobbying money going to politicians to institute legislation that benefits these interests instead of the students. To make matters worse, many of the bodies which set education policy and funding are filled by allies of corporate and financial interests.

NO CUTS!

The public education system in California is the target of a power grab by the economic and political elites. Politicians like Governor Jerry Brown, agencies like WASC, and political insiders like the UC Regents argue that the fiscal situation at California public colleges and universities must be accepted. They claim the only possible remedies that will work are massive cuts to faculty salaries, classes, and school services, coupled with increases in tuition fees. These claims are false and are a ploy to falsely frame this debate.

Society needs to have an educated populace if it is to move forward. It is essential for the government to provide public education for its people and make it accessible to all members of society. Because everyone benefits from an educated population, education is not meant to be paid for by the students, but by society as a whole, including corporations and wealthy individuals. As a precondition for economic prosperity, spending on education absolutely must happen, and hence it is not an option to use education spending as a means to balance government budgets.

Every effort must be made to improve funding for our Community College, CSU, and UC systems. The money that is allocated for educating the public should be used mainly on public education instead of being funneled to private interests through for-profit universities or UC Regents' pet projects. It is a myth that there is no money. Funds for education can be increased by diverting them away from prisons, increasing tax revenues from the rich and powerful elites by closing their tax loopholes, and instituting taxes on these elites such as a financial transaction tax.

Banking and finance also play a key role. If California establishes state and municipal banks, funds would be freed for education by eliminating the costs associated with bad swap deals set up by private banks such as Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase. Congress could reclaim their constitutional right to print money by nationalizing the Federal Reserve, erasing massive amounts of government debt effectively ending the falsely manufactured deficit woes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

Be Informed!

UC budget basics:

http://budget.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/2011/12/Budget_fact_11.29.11.pdf

CSU budget basics:

<http://www.calstate.edu/Budget/>

CCC key facts:

<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/PolicyInAction/KeyFacts.aspx>

WASC report and their memo on the CCSF site:

http://www.ccsf.edu/Offices/Research_Planning/pdf/CCSFEvalReport16May2012.pdf

Great site w/ articles about SF Bay Area

fight for education <http://reclaimuc.blogspot.com>

Spread the Word!

People care about public higher education and many will fight to help keep the UC, CSU, and CC system intact. Tell your friends, your coworkers, and your neighbors about California's struggle with austerity.

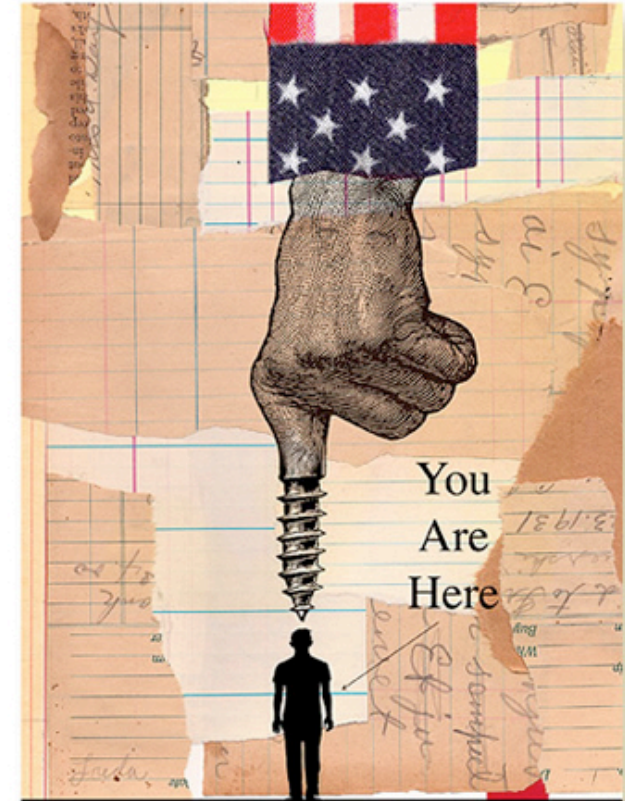
Organize!

A California-wide student union is being organized by students who are following the example of students of Quebec, Chile, and Mexico. Join the union & spread the word!

- ✓ Join the Save City College of San Francisco group on Facebook.
- ✓ Join the CSU No Cuts Coalition - CSULA on Facebook.
- ✓ <http://occupyeducationca.org>
- ✓ <http://www.saveccsf.org/>



EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK



Public education in California is under attack from powerful corporate interests.

We must collectively fight to save what is most important for California's future prosperity: the public California Community College (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California (UC) systems.